

Town Facts



SOUTH SHORE NATURAL SCIENCE CENTER

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The Art Center is a non-profit educational organization affiliated with the Massachusetts College of Art Continuing Education program and is a member of the Metropolitan Cultural Alliance.

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Marshfield

Governor Edward Winslow, given a large grant for farming in 1628, was Marshfield's first settler. The town was incorporated in 1640. One of the first public schools was built in 1645. Peregrine White, who was born aboard the Mayflower, lived here after his marriage and later Daniel Webster lived and maintained an office here. After its marshes were drained in the 19th century, Marshfield became a farming center, with cranberries and strawberries its most important crops. Now it is a residential and summer resort area with several historic buildings and sites.

Scituate

Scituate was settled in 1628, independently of Plymouth, by merchant adventurers from Kent. The town was incorporated in 1636. Early industries were fishing, milling, brickmaking and ship building. The Columbia, the first American vessel to sail around the world, was built here. Scituate's picturesque harbor is an attraction for many year-round visitors.

Norwell

Norwell was originally a part of Scituate. It was settled in 1634 and a sawmill was built in 1656. It became a separate town in 1849. The abundance of oak led to the manufacture of trunks and boxes in the 19th century. Today, you will find some of the finest examples of colonial architecture in Norwell.

Cohasset

A breathtaking drive combining huge lovely homes with rugged coastline and a historic harbor portrays the town of Cohasset. Browse through a village of quaint shops, fine restaurants and historical museums. Enjoy weekend carillon concerts, art shows and hiking trails with everything highlighted on a walking trail map. From June to September, big-name entertainment for all is under the stars at the South Shore Music Circus.

Hanover

Settled in 1649, Hanover was part of Scituate. It was incorporated in 1727, named for King George I of the ruling house of Hanover. Luddamm's Ford on the North River, was the site of the early grist mills and late of the iron forge where the major of the frigate Constitution (Old Ironsides) was cast. Many small sailing vessels were built here in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Hingham

Hingham was deeded by the Algonquin Indians to the English settlers in 1633. It was named in 1635 for a town in England from which a number of the settlers had come. Corn, saw and grist mills were built here as early as 1643 and in 1703 an iron works was established. Shipbuilding and fishing became important early in the 19th century; at one time more than 75 fishing vessels sailed out of Hingham. It is now a lovely residential village with winding, tree-shaded streets, and several historic buildings.

Hull

The first building in this area was a trading post erected by traders from Plymouth. Because of its fine sheltered harbor and beach, it became a major fishing center even before its incorporation in 1647. In 1630, it was taxed one-eleventh of the total Boston tax because of the large amount of fish brought in. Today, its harbor and beach make it a popular resort.

Kingston

Kingston was first visited in 1603 by Martin Pring, who saw an Indian village and gardens sown with tobacco and maize. Pilgrim explorers visited it and land grants were made in the area in 1627. It became a separate town in 1725, and the first bog iron smelter was established here a year later. The first American naval vessel, the Independence, was built here and commis-

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